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10/824,106	04/14/2004	Janaki P. Kumar	13906-171001 / 2004P00206	6151
32864 7590 05/29/2007 FISH & RICHARDSON, P.C. PO BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			EXAMINER COUGHLAN, PETER D	
			ART UNIT 2129	PAPER NUMBER
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/824,106

Applicant(s)

KUMAR, JANAKI P.

Examiner

Peter Coughlan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 13-16, 18 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 13-16, 18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 4/14/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## Detailed Action

1. This office action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered March 30, 2007 for the patent application 10/824106 filed on April 14, 2004.
2. All previous office actions are fully incorporated into this Non-Final Office Action by reference.

### ***Status of Claims***

3. Claims 1-9, 13-16, 18, and 20 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

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These claims contain the phrase 'attribute name' which is not defined within the specification. Paragraph 0023 states that an attribute 'may include any form of name to identify an attribute, such as "country." ' but fails to disclose what is actually is. As written it may not form of name to identify an attribute as well. Considering the fact that this term is a major element within the independent claims but lacks description within the specification explains why these claims are rejected.

These claims must be amended or withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. These claims contain the word 'operator' which is not defined within the specification. Paragraph 0023 simply states that 'may include a logical or other form of operator, such as "contains.'" Which means it may not include a logical or other form of operator, such as "contains" as well. Considering the fact that this term is a major element within the independent claims but lacks description within the specification explains why these claims are rejected.

These claims must be amended or withdrawn from consideration

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9, 13-16, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) (hereinafter referred to as **Thurlow**) being anticipated by Thurlow et al., U.S. 6057841.

**Claim 1**

Thurlow anticipates displaying a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display device of a computer, the GUI including a representation of a condition of a user defined rule to process textual information and a representation of an action of a user defined rule to process the textual information (**Thurlow**, Figure 6a; 'GUI' of applicant is equivalent to the screen shot (item 600) of Thurlow.), wherein the condition includes an attribute name, an operator, and an attribute value (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is

equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow.) and wherein the action includes an action name and a action value(**Thurlow**, C10:26-34; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], ..., [parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow.), receiving user input via the GUI, the user inputs indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template (**Thurlow**, C10:26-34; 'Receiving user input' of applicant is equivalent to 'the user works through the process of selecting available conditions' of Thurlow.); creating in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule(**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:26-34; Creation of a 'rule template' of applicant is illustrated by the 'construction of a rule' of Thurlow. Each rule contains at least condition and action.) , wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule(**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow.), wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule(**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25,

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C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule(**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow.), and wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule(**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), receiving a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value place holder (**Thurlow**, C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'receiving a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value place holder' is equivalent to allowing users to editing a rule of Thurlow.) , creating in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information, the second user defined rule being based on the rule template and including the

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value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder(**Thurlow**, C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'creating in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information' is equivalent to users editing a rule of Thurlow.), storing the second user defined rule in a computer readable medium on a storage device for later use in processing textual information(**Thurlow**, C2:19-46; 'Storing' of applicant is equivalent to 'the rule is then stored' of Thurlow.), wherein the second user defined rule includes a condition that includes the attribute name of the condition of the rule template, the operator of the condition of the rule template, an attribute value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder(**Thurlow**, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), and wherein the second user defined rule further includes an action that includes the action name of the action of the rule template and an action value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder (**Thurlow**, C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for



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each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], ..., [parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow. . 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), using the second user defined rule to process incoming textual information received from a customer system (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54; 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow.), and triggering the action of the second user defined rule when the incoming textual information satisfies the condition of the second user defined rule. (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54; 'Triggering the action' of applicant is equivalent to 'automatically execute specific tasks' of Thurlow. 'Satisfies the condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'when user provided criteria are met' of Thurlow.)

## Claim 2

Thurlow anticipates wherein the storing the rule template in a computer readable medium on a storage device comprises storing the rule template in a repository that is accessible to the user. (**Thurlow**, Fig. 1; Thurlow illustrates a hard drive, magnetic disk drive, and a optical disk interface which are memory devices and are connected to the monitor which the user has access to.)

## Claim 3

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Thurlow anticipates wherein the user-defined rule contains a plurality of conditions that each include an attribute name, an operator, and an attribute value. (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow.)

#### Claim 4

Thurlow anticipates wherein the conditions of the user-defined rule are connected by at least one logical operator. (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; Thurlow illustrates the 'comparison operator' connects the 'property' and the 'value'.)

#### Claim 5

Thurlow anticipates wherein the rule template contains a plurality of conditions that each correspond to one of the conditions of the user-defined rule and that each include the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user-defined rule. (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is

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equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow.)

#### Claim 6

Thurlow anticipates wherein the conditions of the rule template are connected by at least one logical operator. (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; Thurlow illustrates the 'comparison operator' connects the 'property' and the 'value'.)

#### Claim 7

Thurlow anticipates wherein the attribute-value placeholder in the condition of the rule template includes at least one placeholder symbol and a placeholder name. (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions. Thus the 'symbol' of applicant is equivalent to the 'underlined portion' of the rule description. The 'placeholder name' of applicant is illustrated by the characters, which are underlined in the rule description. )

#### Claim 8

Thurlow anticipates wherein the placeholder name is based on the attribute name of the corresponding condition of the user-defined rule.

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(**Thurlow**, Figure 6b; 'Placeholder name is based on the attribute name' of applicant is illustrated in fig. 6b by having the placeholder name of 'an address list' which relates to a list of addresses.)

#### Claim 9

Thurlow anticipates wherein the incoming textual information comprises textual information contained in email messages or in search queries. (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54; 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow.)

#### Claim 13

Thurlow anticipates wherein the user defined rule contains a plurality of actions that each include an action name and a value. (**Thurlow**, C10:26-34; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], ..., [parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow.)

#### Claim 14

Thurlow anticipates wherein the rule template contains a plurality of actions that each correspond to one of the actions of the user defines rule and that each include the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule. (**Thurlow**, C15:36-47; Thurlow describes rule template which contain combinations of discrete conditions and actions.)

## Claim 15

Thurlow anticipates wherein the value placeholder in the action of the rule template includes at least one placeholder symbol and a placeholder name.

(**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions. Thus the 'symbol' of applicant is equivalent to the 'underlined portion' of the rule description. The 'placeholder name' of applicant is illustrated by the characters, which are underlined in the rule description. )

## Claim 16

Thurlow anticipates wherein the placeholder name is based on the action name of the corresponding action of the user defined rule. (**Thurlow**, Figure 7b; 'Placeholder name is based on the action name' of applicant is illustrated in fig. 7b by having the placeholder name of 'hiking' which relates to a placing all emails which match a SOC hiking information to be placed within a 'hiking folder.')

## Claim 18

Thurlow anticipates display a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display device of a computer, the GUI including a representation of a condition of a user

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defined to process textual information [information] and a representation of an action of the user defined rule to process textual information'(**Thurlow**, Figure 6a; 'GUI' of applicant is equivalent to the screen shot (item 600) of Thurlow.), wherein the condition includes an attribute name, an operator, and an attribute value (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow.) and, wherein the action includes an action name and an action value(**Thurlow**, C10:26-34; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], ..., [parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow.); receive user input via the GUI, the user input indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template(**Thurlow**, C10:26-34; 'Receiving user input' of applicant is equivalent to 'the user works through the process of selecting available conditions' of Thurlow.); create, in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule(**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:26-34; Creation of a 'rule template' of applicant is illustrated by the 'construction of a rule' of Thurlow. Each rule contains at least condition and

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action.), wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule(**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow.), wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule(**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.); wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow.), and wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to

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'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.); receive a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value placeholder(**Thurlow**, C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'receiving a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value place holder' is equivalent to allowing users to editing a rule of Thurlow.); create in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information, the second user defined rule being based on the rule template and including the value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder(**Thurlow**, C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'creating in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information' is equivalent to users editing a rule of Thurlow.); storing the second user defined rule in computer readable medium on a storage device for later use in processing textual information (**Thurlow**, C2:19-46; 'Storing' of applicant is equivalent to 'the rule is then stored' of Thurlow.), wherein the second user defined rule includes a condition that includes the attribute name of the condition of the rule template, the operator of the condition of the attribute value placeholder (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute



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name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), and wherein the second user defined rule further includes an action that includes the action name of the action of the rule template and an action value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder (**Thurlow**, C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], ..., [parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow. . 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), using the second user defined rule to process incoming textual information received from a customer system (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54; 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow.); and triggering the action of the second user defined rule when the incoming textual information satisfies the condition of the second user defined rule. (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54; 'Triggering the action' of applicant is equivalent to 'automatically execute specific tasks' of Thurlow. 'Satisfies the condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'when user provided criteria are met' of Thurlow.)

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Thurlow anticipates display a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display device of a computer, the GUI including a representation of a condition of a user defined rule to process textual information and a representation of an action of the user defined rule to process textual information (**Thurlow**, Figure 6a; 'GUI' of applicant is equivalent to the screen shot (item 600) of Thurlow.), wherein the condition includes an attribute name, an operator and a attribute value (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow.); receive user input via the GUI, the user input indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template (**Thurlow**, C10:26-34; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], ..., [parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow.); create, in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:26-34; Creation of a 'rule template' of applicant is illustrated by the 'construction of a rule' of Thurlow. Each rule contains at least condition and action.), wherein the condition of the rule template includes the

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attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow.), wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow.), and wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow.); received a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder (**Thurlow**, C3:22-32; Thurlow

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indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'receiving a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value place holder' is equivalent to allowing users to editing a rule of Thurlow.); and create in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information, the second user defined rule being based on the rule template and including the value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder (**Thurlow**, C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'creating in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information' is equivalent to users editing a rule of Thurlow.); storing the second user defined rule in computer readable medium on a storage device for later use in processing textual information (**Thurlow**, C2:19-46; 'Storing' of applicant is equivalent to 'the rule is then stored' of Thurlow.), wherein the second user defined rule includes a condition that includes the attribute name of the condition of the rule template, the operator of the condition of the rule template, an attribute value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of

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Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), and wherein the second user defined rule further includes an action that includes the action name of the action of the rule template and an action value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder (**Thurlow**, C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], ..., [parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow. . 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.); using the second user defined rule to process incoming textual information received from a customer system (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54; 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow.); and triggering the action of the second user defined rule when the incoming textual information satisfies the condition of the second user defined rule. (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54; 'Triggering the action' of applicant is equivalent to 'automatically execute specific tasks' of Thurlow. 'Satisfies the condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'when user provided criteria are met' of Thurlow.)

### ***Response to Arguments***

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6. Applicant's arguments filed on March 30, 2007 for claims 1-9, 13-16, 18, 20 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

7. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

Applicant argues that the combination of Ball and Hernandez fail to disclose the elements of the independent claims 1, 18 and 20.

Examiner's response:

Ball and Hernandez are no longer used as references in this application. Thurlow is used for the entire application. Regarding the independent claims Thurlow teaches 'GUI' of applicant is equivalent to the screen shot (item 600) of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, Figure 6a) 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25) 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], ..., [parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C10:26-34) 'Receiving user input' of applicant is equivalent to 'the user works through the process of selecting available conditions' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C10:26-34) Creation of a 'rule template' of applicant is

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illustrated by the 'construction of a rule' of Thurlow. Each rule contains at least condition and action. (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:26-34) 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25;) 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions. (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b;) Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'receiving a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value placeholder' is equivalent to allowing users to editing a rule of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C3:22-32;) 'Storing' of applicant is equivalent to 'the rule is then stored' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C2:19-46;) 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54) 'Triggering the action' of applicant is equivalent to 'automatically execute specific tasks' of Thurlow. 'Satisfies the condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'when user provided criteria are met' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54) Office Action stands.

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8. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

Applicant argues that the Morwood fail to disclose the elements of the claims 4, 6, 9

Examiner's response:

Morwood is not used as a reference in the office action. Thurlow discloses the elements in claims 4, 6, 9. Thurlow illustrates the 'comparison operator' connects the 'property' and the 'value'. (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25) 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C1:22-54) Office Action stands.

9. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

Applicant argues that the combination of Hernandez, Ball and Whelihan fail to disclose the elements of the claims 2, 3, 5, 13, 14

Examiner's response:

Hernandez, Ball and Whelihan are not used as a reference in the office action. Thurlow discloses the elements in claims 2, 3, 5, 13, 14. Thurlow illustrates a hard drive, magnetic disk drive, and a optical disk interface which are memory devices and are connected to the monitor which the user has access to. (**Thurlow**, Fig. 1) 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is



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equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25) 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. (**Thurlow**, C10:13-25) Office Action stands.

10. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

Applicant argues that the combination of Hernandez, Ball and Sharp fail to disclose the elements of the claims 7, 8.

Examiner's response:

Hernandez, Ball and Sharp are not used as a reference in the office action. Thurlow discloses the elements in claims 7, 8. 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions. Thus the 'symbol' of applicant is equivalent to the 'underlined portion' of the rule description. The 'placeholder name' of applicant is illustrated by the characters, which are underlined in the rule description. (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b) 'Placeholder name is based on the attribute name' of

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applicant is illustrated in fig. 6b by having the placeholder name of 'an address list' which relates to a list of addresses. (**Thurlow**, Figure 6b) Office Action stands.

11. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

Applicant argues that the combination of Hernandez, Morwood and Sharp fail to disclose the elements of the claims 15, 16.

Examiner's response:

Hernandez, Morwood and Sharp are not used as a reference in the office action. Thurlow discloses the elements in claims 15, 16. 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions. Thus the 'symbol' of applicant is equivalent to the 'underlined portion' of the rule description. The 'placeholder name' of applicant is illustrated by the characters which are underlined in the rule description. (**Thurlow**, C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b) 'Placeholder name is based on the action name' of applicant is illustrated in fig. 7b by having the placeholder name of 'hiking' which relates to a placing all emails which match a SOC hiking information to be placed within a 'hiking folder. (**Thurlow**, Figure 7b)

### ***Examination Considerations***

12. The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention. "Office personnel are to give the claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d, 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969)" (MPEP p 2100-8, c 2, I 45-48; p 2100-9, c 1, I 1-4). The Examiner has the full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. Examiner will reference prior art using terminology familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such an approach is broad in concept and can be either explicit or implicit in meaning.

13. Examiner's Notes are provided to assist the applicant to better understand the nature of the prior art, application of such prior art and, as appropriate, to further indicate other prior art that maybe applied in other office actions. Such comments are entirely consistent with the intent and sprit of compact prosecution. However, and unless otherwise stated, the Examiner's Notes are not prior art but link to prior art that one of ordinary skill in the art would find inherently appropriate.

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14. Examiner's Opinion: Paragraphs 12 and 13 apply. The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense.

***Conclusion***

15. The prior art of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.

- U. S. Patent 7010606: Thurlow
- U. S. Patent 6954782: Thurlow
- U. S. Patent 6993563: Thurlow
- U. S. Patent Publication 20040044515: Metcalf
- U. S. Patent Publication 20040006546: Wedlake
- U. S. Patent Publication 20030163783: Chikirivao
- U. S. Patent Publication 20020095529: Syvanne
- U. S. Patent 6427146: Chu

16. Claims 1-9, 13-16, 18, and 20 are rejected.

***Correspondence Information***

17. Any inquiry concerning this information or related to the subject disclosure should be directed to the Examiner Peter Coughlan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-5990. The Examiner can be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor David Vincent can be reached at (571) 272-3080. Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, D. C. 20231;

Hand delivered to:

Receptionist,  
Customer Service Window,  
Randolph Building,  
401 Dulany Street,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313,  
(located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building);

or faxed to:

(571) 272-3150 (for formal communications intended for entry.)

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Peter Coughlan

5/23/2007

  
DAVID VINCENT  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER